



## THE PHYSICIAN'S *Bookshelf*

**MECHANISMS OF DISEASE**—An Introduction to Pathology—Ruy Perez-Tamayo, M.D., Professor and Director of the Department of Pathology of the School of Medicine National University of Mexico. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1961. 512 pages, illustrated, \$14.00.

This book is dedicated to the clear presentation of basic processes in disease, the nature of which is considered in a philosophical preface that clarifies the concept of "life under abnormal conditions." The author, a pathologist, makes use of the approach of conventional pathology in basing some discussions upon morphologic alterations in cells and tissues, but changes in gross or microscopic structure are used as indices, comparable to clinical or physiological measurements, which also are not disease *per se* but constitute evidence from which the nature of basic changes can be perceived more clearly. Appropriate consideration of all kinds of evidence has led to success in the synthesis of clear ideas of the mechanisms involved in disease.

The discussions of mechanisms are penetrating but are reasonably concise, and do not obscure the broad ideas by enumeration of detail, which is available through abundant quoted references. No attempt is made to consider diseases as isolated entities, but rather as instances of the general mechanisms by which homeostasis is achieved. The result is practical and interesting. Illustrations are not numerous but are well selected to supplement the text.

This book will provide a student of medicine with an authoritative and readable presentation of general pathology, and should also be of use to all specialists in medicine as a means of broadening their perspective, and so counteracting some of the undesirable results of the high degree of specialization that has occurred during the last century.

ALVIN J. COX, M.D.

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**HEALTH IN INDUSTRY**—A Guide for Engineers, Executives, and Doctors—R. C. Browne, M.A., D.M. (Oxon.), M.R.C.P. (London), Nuffield Professor of Industrial Health, King's College, Newcastle Upon Tyne (University of Durham); Physician, Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle upon Tyne, and Dryburn Hospital, Durham; Director, North of England Industrial Health Advisory Service. The Williams & Wilkins Co., Baltimore 2, Maryland, exclusive U. S. agents, 1961. 157 pages, \$4.50.

Excluding the three appendices, this small monograph consists of only 139 pages. There are nine photographic illustrations and approximately 52 drawings, figures and tables. The eight chapters bear the following captions, The Health of the Executive, The Administrative Importance of Absence from Work Due to Sickness, The Design of the Equipment from the Human Point of View, Some Human Aspects of Industrial Accidents, Automation, Industrial Fatigue, The Physical Surroundings in Which Work Is Done and Chemical Substances in the Environment Affecting the Human Being.

The content of this book has been derived from lectures given to medical students, mechanical engineers and chem-

ists. In an attempt to justify its publication the author states in the preface that "the boards of directors of modern industry are composed of engineers, chemists, lawyers, accountants and managers who have been trained within industry itself. These are the men who create the environment in which men work."

This reviewer assumes that in using the word *create* the author implies that these are the men who provide the monetary means by which an opportunity to work is created. Having this lay group in mind the author states in the preface that "much omission and simplification has been necessary to ensure a generally acceptable presentation." We believe the simplification has been overdone.

This book may have some limited value for men in management but it has no value to the physician or hygienist who seeks to control or remove environmental hazards in work places. The bibliography is exceedingly scant. Some chapters contain no references to the related literature.

RUTHERFORD T. JOHNSTONE, M.D.

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**PATHOLOGY OF THE FETUS AND INFANT**—Second Edition—Edith L. Potter, M.D., Ph.D., Professor of Pathology, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, The University of Chicago; Pathologist, the Chicago Lying-in Hospital. Year Book Medical Publishers, Inc., 200 East Illinois Street, Chicago 11, Illinois, 1961. 670 pages, 681 figures, \$22.00.

The first edition of this volume, "Pathology of the Fetus and the Newborn," proved to be a popular and useful book. The second edition, as indicated by the change in title, has increased its scope and size to include conditions affecting the infant during the first year of life.

As was the case in the first edition, clinical material is frequently presented in an arbitrary manner. The following are a few of the many opinions which are presented as facts: "Meconium in the amniotic fluid is a grave sign," occult cord prolapse "is the common cause of fetal distress," the "absence of the fallopian tubes, uterus and vagina must be extremely rare in infants who are otherwise normal," and it "is possible for two very light skinned individuals, both of whom are part Negro, to have children with much darker skin."

The organization of the material continues to be somewhat cumbersome. Erythroblastosis, for example, is discussed in at least fifteen different areas of the book. While the table of contents is impressive, the discussions of some topics such as heredity and inborn errors of metabolism, are so brief as to serve no useful purpose.

Despite these minor criticisms, the present edition continues to be a valuable and important book. Of particular value as reference sources are the chapters on kidneys and ureters, skeleton, tumors, and the central nervous system. The book is highly recommended to physicians concerned with the problems of the fetus or infant.

R. C. GOODLIN, M.D.